

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 11516 01 OF 02 211443Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAM-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 /037 W

----- 030854

R 211405Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0028

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 11516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT FR US OVIP (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)

SUBJ: THEMES FOR GISCARD'S STATE VISIT

THIS MESSAGE DISCUSSES PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S OBJECTIVES FOR HIS STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND PROVIDES THE EMBASSY'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OFFICIAL WASHINGTON'S DEMEANOR DURING THE EVENT.

1. POLITICAL BACKGROUND

GISCARD WILL BE MAKING HIS VISIT AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INTENSE CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE OF FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICS. THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST ELECTORAL VICTORY IN THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OF 1978 IS BECOMING LESS AND LESS HYPOTHETICAL. BETWEEN NOW AND THE SPRING OF 1978, THEREFORE, NO GOVERNMENTAL OR PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY IN FRANCE WILL ESCAPE THIS CONTEXT, GISCARD'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES INCLUDED. AFTER HIS GOVERNING COALITION'S DEFEAT IN THE CANTONAL ELECTIONS IN MARCH, AND HIS DROP TO BELOW 50 PERCENT IN THE POPULARITY POLLS IN APRIL, GISCARD WILL WANT TO MAKE THE U.S. VISIT AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN HIS CAMPAIGN TO BOUNCE BACK.

2. GISCARD'S SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES IN THE U.S.

A. FIRST AND FOREMOST, GISCARD WILL WANT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT FRANCE CAN STILL COMMAND ATTENTION AND RESPECT IN THE UNITED STATES. ELYSEE AIDES TELL US THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 11516 01 OF 02 211443Z

ONE OF THEIR GREATEST CONCERNS ABOUT THE VISIT IS THAT

IT MAY BE IGNORED BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. MAJOR MEDIA COVERAGE IN FRANCE IS ASSURED, BUT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN THE MIDST OF AN ELECTION YEAR APPEAR TO BE AN UNKNOWN FACTOR. THAT IS WHY GISCARD SENT AMBASSADOR ANDRE VAURS, FORMER HEAD OF FRENCH INFORMATION SERVICES IN NEW YORK, TO THE U.S. AS AN ADVANCE MAN AND ADVISER ON STIMULATING U.S. ATTENTION. THE NAME OF THE GAME IS TO HAVE THE FRENCH MEDIA REPORT BACK THAT FRANCE IS STILL CONSIDERED IMPORTANT TO THE UNITED STATES BY AMERICANS, AND THAT GISCARD HIMSELF EMBODIES THIS PERCEPTION AS EFFECTIVELY AS ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS.

B. SECONDLY, GISCARD WANTS TO BE ABLE TO DISPEL THE IDEA, WHICH IS ACHIEVING MORE AND MORE ACCEPTANCE IN EUROPE, THAT THE UNITED STATES IS LOSING INTEREST IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD. GISCARD CONSISTENTLY TALKS ABOUT THE DIMINISHING NUMBER OF TRUE DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD. ONE OF HIS BICENTENNIAL MESSAGES WILL BE THAT DEMOCRACY CANNOT BE DEFENDED IN ONE COUNTRY IF IT IS NOT DEFENDED IN ALL COUNTRIES. HE HOPES THAT HIS VISIT WILL ELICIT THE TYPE OF AMERICAN RESPONSE ON THIS ISSUE WHICH WILL DEMONSTRATE TO FRENCHMEN AND EUROPEANS THAT THE UNITED STATES STILL HAS VITAL INTERESTS IN EUROPE WHICH WILL BE DEFENDED.

C. THIRD, GISCARD HOPES TO DISPEL A GROWING AMERICAN PERCEPTION THAT WESTERN EUROPE IS SICK AND FALLING APART. THE ECONOMIC RECESSION, POLITICAL INSTABILITY IN ITALY, THE UK-ICELAND DISPUTE, THE GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE AND FOOT-DRAGGING ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY VERY SERIOUS MATTERS. BUT THEY HIDE THE FACT, IN THE GOF VIEW, THAT EUROPE STILL HAS A LOT OF VITALITY AND THE ABILITY TO BOUNCE BACK. FRANCE IS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ABOUT (1) BEING LUMPED IN WITH THE ITALIANS ON THE COMMUNIST ISSUE WHEN THE DOMESTIC SITUATIONS IN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, AND (2) SUGGESTIONS THAT WESTERN EUROPE'S FATE WILL BE DECIDED JOINTLY BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 11516 01 OF 02 211443Z

D. FOURTH, GISCARD WILL WANT TO COME AS A EUROPEAN AS WELL AS A FRENCH PRESIDENT, AND WILL WANT TO ELICIT A PRO-EUROPEAN AMERICAN RESPONSE. WHENEVER EUROPE FAILS TO MOVE FORWARD, THE U.S. GETS THE BLAME FROM A WIDE SPECTRUM OF OPINION. GISCARD WANTS TO DISPEL THIS ALIBI.

E. FIFTH, GISCARD WILL WANT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT

FRENCH AND EUROPEAN INDEPENDENCE, IN THE GAULLIST MODE, NEED NOT CONFLICT WITH U.S. INTERESTS. INDEED, HIS THEME WILL BE THAT A STRONG INDEPENDENT EUROPE WILL BE A BETTER PARTNER FOR THE UNITED STATES IN THE DEFENSE OF DEMOCRACY.

F. FINALLY, GISCARD WILL TALK ABOUT INTERDEPENDENCE IN AN ERA OF WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC MOVEMENT, AND THE NEED TO COORDINATE NATIONAL POLICIES IN THE SPIRIT OF RAMBOUILLET.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 11516 02 OF 02 211506Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 SAM-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 /037 W
----- 031130

R 211405Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0029

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 11516

3. EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WASHINGTON

GISCARD'S INITIAL STRATEGY TO ATTRACT NON-COMMUNIST LEFT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP INTO A CENTRIST-REFORMIST COALITION HAS FAILED. HE IS NOW ENGAGED IN A TWO-YEAR ELECTORAL FIGHT AGAINST THE ENTIRE LEFT TO DETERMINE WHETHER FRANCE WILL HAVE, AS HE PUTS IT, A COLLECTIVIST OR A LIBERAL SOCIETY. BECAUSE OF THE SIGNIFICANT, ALTHOUGH MINORITY, COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN THE UNION OF THE LEFT, IT IS IN THE U.S. INTEREST FOR GISCARD TO WIN THIS ELECTORAL FIGHT. IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, THAT GISCARD'S U.S. VISIT CONTRIBUTE TO THIS EFFORT. IN THIS CONTEXT, EMBASSY MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. WE SHOULD HELP GISCARD ACHIEVE MAXIMUM EXPOSURE TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SO THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC WILL FEEL THAT FRANCE CONTINUES TO BE IMPORTANT THE RESPECTED BY AMERICANS. THIS WILL REQUIRE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION IN GISCARD'S ACTIVITIES BY THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT.

B. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY U.S. OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY BY THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE, SHOULD EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING THEMES:

-- WESTERN EUROPE REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY;

-- THE U.S. VIEWS FRENCH INDEPENDENCE, ITS MILITARY CAPABILITY, ITS WORLDWIDE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, ITS FLOW OF IDEAS, AND ITS CONTINUING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 11516 02 OF 02 211506Z

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR COMMON CIVILIZATION AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES.

-- THE U.S. GREETES GISCARD FIRST AS THE PRESIDENT OF FRANCE, AMERICA'S OLDEST ALLY, BUT ALSO AS A LEADER OF EUROPE, AMERICA'S NEWEST ALLY, WHICH WE WANT TO SEE ADVANCE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH AND ACHIEVE GROWING UNITY.

-- THE TIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT WITH EUROPE REMAIN AS STRONG AS HISTORY AND SHARED VALUES HAVE ALWAYS MEANT THEM TO BE.

-- THE U.S. HAS THE HIGHEST PRAISE FOR THE INTELLECTUAL AND STATESMANLIKE LEADERSHIP EXERCISED BY GISCARD IN HIS PROPOSALS FOR THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THE RAMBOUILLET SUMMIT, ESPECIALLY FOR THE WAY HE HAS ARTICULATED THE NEED TO COORDINATE NATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

-- WE HAVE FAITH IN THE DEMOCRATIC INSTINCTS OF EUROPEANS AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO REJECT TOTALITARIAN SOLUTIONS.

-- WE RESPECT FRENCH TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENTS, CONCORD BEING PERHAPS THE MOST DRAMATIC EXAMPLE, AND WE HOPE SOON TO SEE CONCORDE'S ARRIVAL IN THE U.S. ON REGULARLY SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS; BUT BESIDES AEROSPACE, WE ARE IMPRESSED BY FRENCH ADVANCES IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS AND OTHER AREAS OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY.

C. IN VIEW OF GISCARD'S APPOINTMENT TO ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BE BRIEFED ALONG THE FOREGOING LINES AND URGED TO RESPOND ACCORDINGLY TO GISCARD'S INITIATIVES, ESPECIALLY FOR THE ACCOMPANYING FRENCH MEDIA, AND OTHER AGENCIES AND LOCAL OFFICIALS IN CITIES HE WILL

VISIT MIGHT BE SIMILARLY BRIEFED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 11516 02 OF 02 211506Z

D. USG OFFICIALS SHOULD AVOID ALL PUBLIC REFERENCE DURING GISCARD'S VISIT TO THE PROBLEM OF POTENTIAL COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN NATO GOVERNMENTS. ALTHOUGH GISCARD AGREES WITH OUR OBJECTIVE, HIS DOMESTIC SITUATION WOULD REQUIRE THAT HE REJECT ANY SUCH STATEMENT AS UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN FRANCE'S DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.

E. THE MAIN EMPHASIS IN U.S. PUBLIC STATEMENTS SHOULD BE ON FRANCE, AN ALLY FOR WHICH WE HAVE RESPECT AND TO WHICH WE ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE, RATHER THAN ON GISCARD THE PRESIDENT, WHOM WE DO NOT WISH TO EMBRACE TOO CLOSELY IN VIEW OF FRENCH SENSITIVITIES ABOUT THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

4. FOREGOING RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERN OUR PUBLIC POSTURE DURING GISCARD'S VISIT, WHICH WILL PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BOLSTER HIS DOMESTIC POLITICAL FORTUNES THROUGH THE RESPECT AND ATTENTION HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT FOR FRANCE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD REFRAIN FROM BEING COMPLETELY CANDID WITH GISCARD ON SPECIFIC BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES DURING PRIVATE POLICY CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON.
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS11516
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760151-0217
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760439/aaaabgqp.tel
Line Count: 254
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THEMES FOR GISCARD'S STATE VISIT THIS MESSAGE DISCUSSES PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING'S
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, OVIP, FR, US, (GISCARD D'ESTAING, VALERY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006